GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1412
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2002
PROMOTION OF HINDI
ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN;RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons taught Hindi in Indian missions abroad during each of the last three years;

(b) the efforts being made to promote Hindi in the foreign countries; and

(c) the amount spent thereon during the said period ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) In the last three years, the total number of persons taught Hindi in Indian Missions and Posts abroad was 637 in 1999, 947 in 2000 and 707 in 2001.

(b) In order to promote Hindi in foreign countries, Ministry supplies teaching material including dictionaries, audio/video cassettes, computer software, CD-ROMs etc., and books on various subjects for use in libraries and also for donating to various institutions including voluntary organizations engaged in promotion and propagation of Hindi. India`s Missions and Posts abroad maintain close contact with local organizations and the resident Indian community in the concerned country for promotion and propagation of the Hindi language. Necessary assistance including financial assistance is provided to local organizations involved in promotion and propagation of Hindi. Hundred (100) slots have been allocated for students coming from abroad for the purpose of studying Hindi at Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra. Indian Missions and Posts abroad also organize Regional Hindi Conferences, literary events, Hindi essay competitions etc. to promote Hindi in the countries of their accreditation. The VI World Hindi Conference was held in London from 14-18 September 1999 and the VII World Hindi Conference is scheduled to be held in Suriname in 2003.

(c) The amount spent on propagation of Hindi abroad in the last three years averages approximately Rs. 70 lakh per year.